

10. (Once Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing the intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

11. (Once Amended) The composition according to claim 10, which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacterial suspensions, dried oral supplement, liquid oral supplement, dry tube feeding and liquid tubefeeding.

Please add newly submitted claims 12-23 as follows:

12. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the Lactobacillus is capable to grow in the presence of up to 0.4% bile salts.

13. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the Lactobacillus is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.

14. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the Lactobacillus is Lactobacillus paracasei.

15. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the Lactobacillus paracasei strain is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein the lactic acid bacterium comprises an ingestable support material.

17. The method according to claim 9 wherein the Lactobacillus strain is contained in the support material in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.

18. A method for preventing a disorder associated with diarrhea comprising the steps of administering a lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing the intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses to a patient at risk of diarrhea.

19. The method according to claim 18 wherein the lactic acid bacterium is part of a composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formula.

20. A food comprising a lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing the intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses

Claims

1. Lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing the intestinal mucosa, capable of preventing infection of 5 intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses and capable to grow in the presence of up to 0.4 % bile salts.
2. The Lactobacillus according to claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus or Lactobacillus paracasei.
3. The Lactobacillus according to claim 2, which is Lactobacillus paracasei.
4. The Lactobacillus paracasei strain according to claim 3, which is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116.
5. Use of a lactic acid bacterium according to any of the preceding claims for the preparation of a ingestable support material.
6. The use according to claim 5, wherein the Lactobacillus strain is contained in 20 the support material in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.
7. The use according to any of the claims 5 or 6, wherein the support material is a food composition selected from milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk 25 based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae.
8. The use according to any of the claims 5 to 6, wherein the support material is used for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of disorders associated with diarrhea.

9. Food or pharmaceutical composition containing at least one lactic acid bacterium according to any of the claims 1 to 3.

5 10. The composition according to claim 9, which is selected from milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacterial suspensions, dried oral supplement, wet oral supplement, dry tube feeding or wet tubefeeding.

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AMENDED SHEET